

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-16 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims were rejected. In particular, claims 1, 6, 8-10, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Douceur, and claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Douceur in view of Ankney, and claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Douceur in view of Beser, and claims 7, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Douceur in view of Beser and Belser. None of the pending claims is currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 distinguish Douceur because the generated group address is stored for use in an address table. As indicated by the Office, Douceur discusses the use of wildcards at column 9, line 62 through column 10 line 27. However, Applicant does not claim to have invented wildcards in this application, and it is applicant's understanding that wildcards were known even before Douceur was filed. For example, wildcards have long been used in command line interfaces to refer to such things as filenames. Douceur uses wildcards to filter addresses. As stated at column 10, lines 14 through 17, "by virtue of having a wildcard(s), a single source address in a pattern, such as that in pattern 250, can match against multiple different source addresses in packets." The pending claims do not recite use of wildcards in a filter, or to identify file names in a command line interface, but rather to create group addresses that are stored in an address table. While Douceur's wildcards are in a filter that could be used to filter addresses from a table, the present claims recite that wildcards ("regular expression characters") are actually in addresses in the address table itself. In claim 1 this distinguishing feature is recited as "generating a single address that represents the plurality of addresses by inserting the selected at least one regular expression character in place of the at least one character of the plurality of

addresses, thereby generating a group address; and storing the generated group address in the address table, whereby a plurality of addresses are represented by a single group address entry in the address table.” Similarly, claim 8 recites “the circuitry further operative to generate a single address that represents the addresses by inserting the selected at least one regular expression character in place of the at least one character of the plurality of addresses, thereby generating a group address; and a storage for storing the generated group address, whereby a plurality of addresses are represented by a single address entry in said storage.” Claims 15 and 16 recite similar language. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections of claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 based on Douceur is therefore requested. Claims 2, 4, 6-7, and 9-14 are dependent claims which further distinguish the invention, and which are allowable for the same reason as their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejections of the dependent claims based on Douceur is therefore also requested.

Claims 2, 4, 7, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on combinations of Douceur with references including Ankney, Beser and Belser. However, none of those secondary references were cited for, nor teach, an address table having an entry that uses wildcards to represent multiple addresses. Claims 2, 4, 7, 11, 13 and 14 are therefore allowable for the same reason discussed above with reference to their respective base claims. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections based on Douceur in combination with ones of Ankney, Beser and Belser is therefore also requested.

This application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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